Associated with the imagination and not reason, fancy (fantaisie) in the eighteenth century was a sort of whimsical distraction from the everyday. For Voltaire it was “a singular desire, a passing whim” (“un désir singulier, un goûtpassager”), while for Samuel Johnson it was “something that pleases or entertains without real use or value”. Together with its near-synonym caprice (capriccio), fancy was part of a rich semantic network, connecting wit, pleasure, erotic desire, spontaneity, improvisation, surprise, deviation from norms, the trivial, and inconsequential. Unpredictable and quirky, it offered many outlets for artistic creativity. These study days will explore the expressive freedom of fancy (fantaisie, capriccio) in European culture during the eighteenth century – in figure and landscape painting, architecture and garden design, philosophy and fiction, theatre and music.

Conference organizers
Muriel Adrien,
Associate Professor at the University of Toulouse
Melissa Percival,
Associate Professor in French and Art History at the University of Exeter, and guest curator
Axel Hémery,
Director of the Musée des Augustins, Toulouse

3rd December 2015
4th Musée Paul Dupuy, Toulouse, France
14h  Welcome and introduction

Chair: Melissa Percival

14h15  Keynote speaker - Martin Postle: Modelling for the Fancy Picture: fact, fiction and fantasy

15h  Frédéric Ogée: Fancying Nature: the posterity of Joseph Addison's 'Pleasures' in English Enlightenment culture

15h30  Tea and coffee break

Chair: Xavier Cervantes

16h  John Chu: 'The many peopled wall': Fancy Pictures and Annual Exhibitions in Eighteenth-Century London

16h20  Isabelle Baudino: Picturing the past: The fancy picture and the historical imagination in eighteenth-century Britain

16h40  Hélène Ibata: British caprices, from the picturesque to the sublime

17h  Discussion

18h30  Visit of the exhibit of the Musée des Augustins

20h30  Dinner

Chair: Muriel Adrien

9h15  Keynote speaker - Guillaume Faroult

10h  Emmanuel Faure-Carricaburu: Figures de fantaisie de Jean-Baptiste Santerre et limites des cadres génériques d'interprétation

10h20  Discussion

10h30  Tea and coffee break

Chair: Frédéric Ogée

11h  Christophe Guillouet: La production gravée parisiennne au cœur de l'invention d'un genre? Les « fantaisies » de Poyly et Courin (1710-1728)

11h20  Bénédicte Miyamoto: 'As Whimsical and Chimeraical as their forms are' - ornamental and fanciful motives in English drawing books

11h40  Pierre-Henri Bigel: De la fantaisie des éventails aux éventails de fantaisie

12h  Discussion

12h30  Lunch

Chair: Isabelle Baudino

14h  Vanessa Alayrac: « A Butterfly supporting an Elephant »: chinoiserie in 18th century England, or "the luxuriance of Fancy"

14h20  Xavier Cervantes: Réminiscences vénitiennes et hybridité culturelle dans les vues et caprices anglais de Canaletto

14h40  Adrián Fernández Almoguera: Du cabinet privé à la villa suburbaine : caprices et fantaisies artistiques dans la capitale des Lumières espagnoles

15h  Discussion

15h30  Tea and coffee break

Chair: Hélène Dachez

16h  Laurent Châtel: Fancy a Garden? The Hortulan Pleasures of Imagination and Virtuality

16h20  Nathalie Vincent-Arnaud: Capriccios, or a new 'grammar in motion' in music and ballet

16h40  Alice Labourg: 'Fancypaints with hues unreal': Pictorial Fantasy and Literary Creation in Ann Radcliffe's Gothic Novel

17h  Discussion